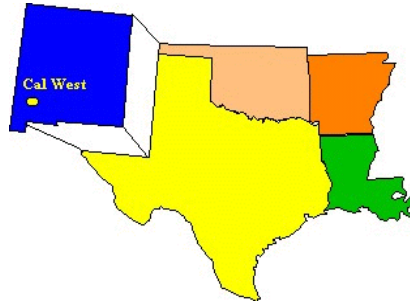


**CAL WEST
METALS
(USSBA)
NEW MEXICO**
EPA ID# NMD097960272



EPA REGION 6
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 02
Socorro County
1/2 mile north of Lemitar

Last Update: 6/26/2003

Site Description

- Location: ● 1/2 mile north of Lemitar in Socorro County.
- Population: ● Approximately 1,000 people get drinking water from public and private wells within a 3-mile radius.
● Six hundred acres of food and forage crops are irrigated with surface water within 3 miles downstream of the site.
- Setting: ● The site encompasses approximately 43.8 acres. The facility processed approximately 20,000 automobile batteries in a 13-acre area to recover lead.
- Hydrology: ● Surface soils consist of gravelly sandy loams
● Ground water at the site is encountered at a depth of 70 to 95 feet below ground surface.

Present Status and Issues

- NMED is currently maintaining the cap and monitoring the ground water at the site. NMED will install an additional monitoring well, as recommended in the Five-Year Review, in Fall 2002.

Wastes and Volumes

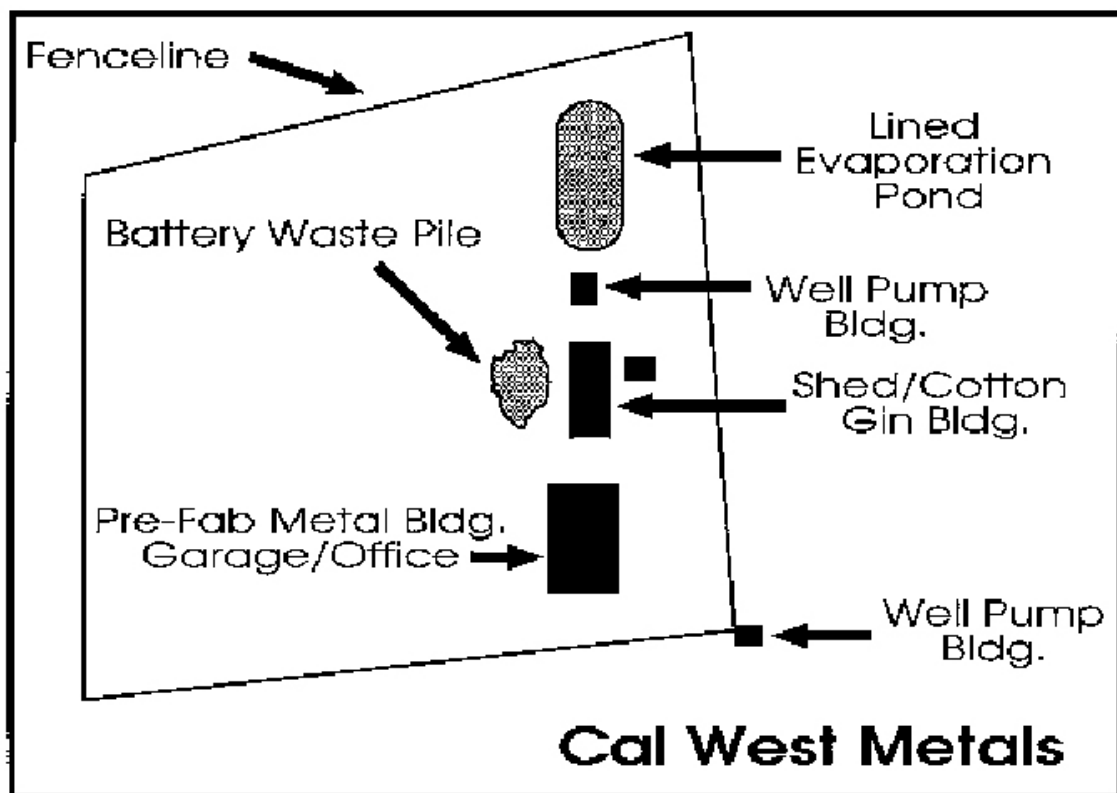
- PRINCIPAL POLLUTANTS: Lead - 54,500 parts per million (ppm) to 424,000 ppm
- VOLUME: 45,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil drainage sediments, pond sediments, and broken battery materials.

Site Assessment and Ranking

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Site HRS Score: 59.37
Proposed Date: 6/24/88
Final Date: 3/31/89
NPL Update: No. 7
NPL Deletion: 12/20/96

Site Map and Diagram



The Remediation Process

Site History:

- The facility operated as a battery recycling plant and secondary lead smelter between 1979 and 1981. Raw materials recovery research and development continued between 1982 and 1984.
- On October 23, 1985, the Small Business Administration (SBA) foreclosed on and took ownership of the facility.
- The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and EPA conducted preliminary site inspections from 1984 through 1989.
- NMED prepared a Superfund Hazard Ranking System package in January 1987, and the site was formally added to the Superfund National Priorities List on March 31, 1989.
- EPA began the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) in August 1990. EPA conducted the RI/FS with in-house personnel and assistance from the NMED.
- The RI/FS Reports and the Proposed Plan of action were released to the public in July 1992.
- The Proposed Plan public comment period was held July 20, 1992, through August 18, 1992.
- On September 29, 1992, EPA signed the Record of Decision (ROD).
- The Remedial Action contract was awarded on February 25, 1994, and construction was completed by the end of April 1995.
- Preliminary Close-Out Report was completed on September 29, 1995, marking the completion of the remedy at the site.

- The site was deleted from the NPL on December 20, 1996.
- EPA conducted a five-year review at the Site in September 2000, and the remedial action was found to be protective. The five-year review recommended installing an additional down-gradient monitoring well to provide additional verification that the remedy is protective.
- The New Mexico Environment Department completed the installation of the additional well in September 2002.

Health Considerations:

- Ingestion; Potential source of groundwater contamination.

Record of Decision

Signed: September 29, 1992

- The major components of the selected remedy include:

Ground Water:

- Monitoring the site ground water with existing wells down gradient of the disposal site.

Soil Treatment:

- Excavation and treatment, by stabilization/ solidification, of approximately 45,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils, sediments, and source waste materials.
- Disposal of the treated contaminated material in an onsite excavation.

Other Remedies Considered

1. No Action
2. Off-site Disposal

Reason Not Chosen

- No Risk Reduction
Not Cost Effective

Community Involvement

- Community Involvement Plan: Developed 4/91
- Open houses and workshops: 8/91, and 6/92, 4/93, 4/94
- Original Proposed Plan Fact Sheet and Public Meeting: 7/92.
- Original ROD Fact Sheet: 11/92
- Milestone Fact Sheets: 2/91, 8/91
- Citizens on site mailing list: 30
- Constituency Interest: Low
- Site Repository: Socorro Public Library, 404 Park St., SW, Socorro, NM; 505/835-1114
- An Open House was hosted by EPA and NMED in April 1994 to discuss the Remedial Action with interested citizens.

Technical Assistance Grant

- Availability Notice: 1991
- Letters of Intent Received: None
- Final Application Received: None
- Grant Award: N/A
- Current Status: No apparent citizen interest in grant.

Contacts

- **Remedial Project Manager (EPA):** Don Williams, 214/665-2197, Mail Sta. 6SF-LT
- **State Contact:** George Schuman, 505/827-0072
- **Community Involvement (EPA):** Don Williams, 214/665-2197, Mail Sta. 6SF-LT
- **Attorney (EPA):** Jim Costello, 214/665-8045, Mail Sta. 6RC-S
- **State Coordinator (EPA):** Kathy Ketcher, 214/665-7196, Mail Sta. 6SF-LT
- **Ombudsman (EPA):** Arnold Ondarza, 1-800-533-3508

Benefits

- The water supply from wells for 1,000 citizens is protected from metals contamination from the site.
- By stabilizing/solidifying the contaminated soil and placing the solidified material under a concrete cap, EPA has made sure that the soil would not pose a threat to the environment.
- Since the site was cleaned up, local businesses have inquired about the possibility of redeveloping the property for commercial purposes. One resident is using the property for a machine shop.